

SPE

2. A prodigal; a lavisher.

Bishop Morton told the commissioners, who were to levy the benevolence, if they met with any that were sparing, tell them that they must needs have, because they laid up; and if they were *spenders*, they must needs have, because it was seen in their port and manner of living. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

SPENDTHRIFT. *n. f.* [*spend* and *thrift*.] A prodigal; a lavisher.

Bitter cold weather starved both the bird and the *spend-thrift*. *L'Estrange.*

Some fawning usurer does feed
With present fums th' unwary *spendthrift's* need. *Dryden.*

Most men, like *spendthrift* heirs, judge a little in hand better than a great deal to come. *Locke.*

The son, bred in sloth, becomes a *spendthrift*, a profligate, and goes out of the world a beggar. *Swift.*

SPERABLE. *adj.* [*spereabilis*, Latin.] Such as may be hoped.

We may cast it away, if it be found but a bladder, and discharge it of so much as is vain and not *spereable*. *Bacon.*

SPERM. *n. f.* [*spere*, Fr. *sperma*, Lat.] Seed; that by which the species is continued.

Some creatures bring forth many young ones at a burthen, and some but one: this may be caused by the quantity of *sperm* required, or by the partitions of the womb which may sever the *sperm*. *Bacon.*

There is required to the preparation of the *sperm* of animals a great apparatus of vessels, many secretions, concoctions, reflections, and circulations. *Ray.*

SPERMACEUM. *n. f.* [*Latin*.] Corruptedly pronounced *permafit*.

A particular sort of whale affords the oil whence this is made; and that is very improperly called *sperma*, because it is only the oil which comes from the head of which it can be made.

It is changed from what it is naturally, the oil itself being very brown and rank. The peculiar property of it is to shoot into flakes, not much unlike the crystallization of salts; but in this state 'tis yellow, and has a certain rankness, from which it is freed by squeezing it between warm metalline plates in a press, and afterwards exposing the remainder to the open air: at length it becomes perfectly pure, inodorous, flaky, smooth, white, and in some measure transparent. *Quincy.*

SPERMATICAL. *adj.* [*spermatique*, Fr. from *sperm*.]

SPERMATICK. *adj.* [*spermatique*, Fr. from *sperm*.]

1. Seminal; consisting of seed.

The primordial of the world are not mechanical, but *spermatical* or vital. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

Metals and sundry meteors rude shapes have no need of any particular principle of life, or *spermatical* form, distinct from the rest or motion of the particles of the matter. *More.*

2. Belonging to the sperm.

The moisture of the body, which did before irrigate the parts, is drawn down to the *spermatick* vessels. *Bacon.*

Two different sexes must concur to their generation: there is in both a great apparatus of *spermatick* vessels, wherein the more spirituous part of the blood is by many digestions and circulations exalted into sperm. *Ray on the Creation.*

To *SPERMATIZE*. *v. n.* [*from sperm*.] To yield seed.

Aristotle affirming that women do not *spermatize*, and confer a receptacle rather than essential principles of generation, deductively includes both sexes in mankind. *Brown.*

SPERMATOCYTE. *n. f.* [*σπερματωκύτης*, Gr.] A rupture caused by the contraction of the seminal vessels, and the semen falling into the scrotum. *Bailey.*

SPERMATOLOGIST. *n. f.* [*σπερματολόγος*, Gr.] One who gathers or treats of seeds. *Diét.*

To *SPERSE*. *v. a.* [*sperfus*, Latin.] To disperse; to scatter.

A word not now in use.

The wrathful wind,
Which blows cold storms, burst out of Scythian mew
That *sperst* those clouds, and in so short as thought
This dreadful shape was vanished to nought. *Spenser.*

He making speedy way through *sperst* air,
And through the world of waters wide and deep,
To Morpheus' house doth hastily repair. *Fairy Queen.*

To *SPER*. *v. a.* To bring or pour abundantly. [*Sper* in Scotland is a superabundance of water: as, that tide or fresh was a high *sper*.]

Mysterious dame,
That ne'er art call'd, but when the dragon womb
Of Stygian darkness *sperst* her thickest gloom,
And makes one blot of all the air,
Stop thy cloudy eben chair. *Milton.*

To *SPEW*. *v. a.* [*spreyan*, Saxon; *spreuen*, Dutch.]

To vomit; to eject from the stomach.

A swordfish small him from the rest did funder,
That in his throat him pricking softly under
His wide abyss, him forced forth to *spreu*,
That all the sea did roar like heaven's thunder,
And all the waves were stain'd with filthy hue. *Spenser.*

2. To eject; to cast forth.

When earth with slime and mud is cover'd o'er,
Or hollow places *spreu* their wat'ry store. *Dryden's Georg.*

When yellow sands are sifted from below,
The glittering billows give a golden show;
And when the fouler bottom *spreus* the black,
The Stygian dye the tainted waters take. *Dryden.*

3. To eject with loathing.

Keep my statutes, and commit not any of these abominations, that the land *spreu* not you out. *Lev. xviii. 28.*

Contentious suits ought to be *sprewed* out, as the furies of courts. *Bacon's Essay.*

To *SPEW*. *v. n.* To vomit; to ease the stomach.

He could have haul'd in
The drunkards, and the noises of the inn;
But better 'twas that they should sleep or *spreu*,
Than in the scene to offend or him or you. *Ben. Johnson.*

SPEWY. *adj.* [*from spreu*.] A provincial word.

The lower valleys in wet Winters are *sprewy*, that they know not how to feed them. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

To *SPHACULATE*. *v. a.* [*from sphacelus*, medical, Latin.] To affect with a gangrene.

The long retention of matter *sphaculates* the brain. *Sharp.*

To *SPHACULATE*. *v. n.* To mortify; to suffer the gangrene.

The skin, by the great distension, having been rendered very thin, will, if not taken away, *sphaculate*, and the rest degenerate into a cancerous ulcer. *Sharp's Surgery.*

SPHACELUS. *n. f.* [*σφαῖλος*, Gr.; *sphacele*, Fr.] A gangrene; a mortification.

It is the ground of inflammation, gangrene, *sphacelus*. *Wijem.*

SPHERE. *n. f.* [*sphere*, French; *sphaera*, Latin.]

1. A globe; an orbicular body; a body of which the center is at the same distance from every point of the circumference.

First the sun, a mighty *sphere*, he fram'd. *Milton.*

2. Any globe of the mundane system.

What if within the moon's fair shining *sphere*,
What if in every other star unseen,
Of other worlds he happily should hear? *Fairy Queen.*

And then mortal ears
Had heard the music of the *spheres*. *Dryden.*

3. A globe representing the earth or sky.

Two figures on the sides emboss'd appear;
Conon, and what's his name who made the *sphere*,
And shew'd the seasons of the sliding year. *Dryden.*

4. Orb; circuit of motion.

Half unsung, but narrower bound
Within the visible diurnal *sphere*. *Milton.*

5. Province; compass of knowledge or action; employment.

[From the *sphere* of activity ascribed to the power emanating from bodies.]

To be call'd into a huge *sphere*, and not to be seen to move in't. *Shakesp. Ant. and Cleopatra.*

Of enemies he could not but contract good store, while moving in so high a *sphere*, and with so vigorous a lustre. *K. C.*

Every man, veried in any particular business, finds fault with these authors, so far as they treat of matters within his *sphere*. *Addison's Essay on Criticism.*

Ye know the *spheres* and various tasks assign'd
By laws eternal to the aethereal kind. *Pope.*

To *SPHERE*. *v. a.* [*from the noun*.]

1. To place in a sphere.

The glorious planet Sol,
In noble eminence enthron'd and *spher'd*
Amidst the rest, whose med'cinable eye
Corrects the ill aspects of planets evil. *Shakespeare.*

2. To form into roundness.

Light from her native East
To journey through the airy gloom began,
Spher'd in a radiant cloud; for yet the sun
Was not. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

SPHERICAL. *adj.* [*spherique*, French; from *sphere*.]

SPHERICK. *adj.* [*spherique*, French; from *sphere*.]

1. Round; orbicular; globular.

What descent of waters could there be in a *spherical* and round body, wherein there is nor high nor low. *Raleigh.*

Though sounds spread round, so that there is an orb or *spherical* area of the sound, yet they go farthest in the forelines from the first local impulsion of the air. *Bacon.*

By discernment of the moisture drawn up in vapours, we must know the reason of the *spherical* figures of the drops. *Glan.*

A fluid mass necessarily falls into a *spherical* surface. *Kel.*

Where the central nodule was globular, the inner surface of the first crust would be *spherick*; and if the crust was in all parts of the same thickness, that whole crust would be *spherical*. *Woodward on the Earth.*

2. Planetary; relating to orbs of the planets.

We make guilty of our disasters the sun, the moon, and stars, as if we were villains by *spherical* predominance. *Shakespeare.*

SPHERICALLY. *adv.* [*from spherical*.] In form of a sphere.

SPHERICALNESS. *n. f.* [*from sphere*.] Roundness; roundness.

SPHERICITY. *n. f.* [*from sphere*.] Roundness; roundness.

Such bodies receive their figure and limits from such lets as hinder them from attaining to that *spherickness* they aim at. *Dig.*

Water consists of small, smooth, *spherical* particles: their smoothness makes 'em slip easily upon one another; the *spherickness*

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ricity keeps 'em from touching one another in more points than one. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*

SPHEROID. *n. f.* [*σφαῖρα* and *ἰδῶς*; *sphaeroides*, Fr.] A body oblong or oblate, approaching to the form of a sphere.

They are not solid particles, by the necessity they are under to change their figures into oblong *spheroids*, in the capillary vessels. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*

SPHEROIDICAL. *adj.* [*from spheroid*.] Having the form of a spheroid.

If these corpuscles be *spheroidical*, or oval, their shortest diameters must not be much greater than those of light. *Cheyne.*

SPHERULE. *n. f.* [*sphaerula*, Latin.] A little globe.

Mercury is a collection of exceeding small, vastly heavy *spherules*. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*

SPHINX. *n. f.* [*σφίγξ*.]

The *sphinx* was a famous monster in Egypt, that remained by conjoined Nilus, having the face of a virgin, and the body of a lion. *Peasam on Drawing.*

SPIAL. *n. f.* [*espial*, Fr.] A spy; a scout; a watcher. Obsolete.

His ears be as *spials*, alarm to crie. *Tusser's Husbandry.*

He privy *spial*'d in all his way,
To weet what course he takes, and how he fares. *Fa. Qu.*

For he by faithful *spial* was assured
That Egypt's king was forward on his way. *Fairfax.*

Their trust towards them hath rather been as to good *spials* and good whisperers, than good magistrates and officers. *Bac.*

SPICE. *n. f.* [*espice*, French.]

1. A vegetable production, fragrant to the smell and pungent to the palate; an aromatical substance used in sauces.

Dang'rous rocks,
Which, touching but my gentle vessel's side,
Would scatter all the *spices* on the stream. *Shakespeare.*

Is not manhood, learning, gentleness, and virtue, the *spice* and salt that seasons a man? *Shakesp. Troil. and Cressida.*

The traffick of the *spice*-merchants. *1 Kings x. 15.*

Garlick, the northern *spice*, is in mighty request among the Indians. *Temple.*

High sauces and rich *spices* are fetched from the Indies. *Baker.*

2. A small quantity, as of *spice* to the thing seasoned.

Think what they have done,
And then run stark mad; for all
Thy by-gone fooleries were but *spices* of it. *Shakespeare.*

It containeth singular relations, not without some spice or sprinkling of all learning. *Brown's Vulgar Errours.*

So in the wicked there's no vice,
Of which the fainits have not a *spice*. *Hudibras.*

To *SPICE*. *v. a.* [*from the noun*.] To season with *spice*; to mix with aromatical bodies.

His mother was a votress of my order,
And in the *spiced* Indian air by night
Full often the bath *spiced* by my side. *Shakespeare.*

These hymns may work on future wits, and so
May great-grand-children of thy praises grow;
And so, though not revive, embalm and *spice*
The world, which else would putrify with vice. *Donne.*

What though some have a freight
Of cloves and nutmegs, and in cinnamon sail,
If thou hast wherewithal to *spice* a draught,
When griefs prevail? *Herbert.*

SPICER. *n. f.* [*from spice*.] One who deals in *spice*.

Names have been derived from occupations, as *Salter* and *Spicer*. *Camden.*

SPICERY. *n. f.* [*spicerie*, French; from *spice*.]

1. The commodity of *spices*.

Their camels were laden with *spicery*, and balm and myrrh. *Raleigh's History of the World.*

She in whose body
The western treasure, eastern *spicery*,
Europe and Africk, and the unknown rest,
Were easily found. *Donne.*

2. A repository of *spices*.

The *spicery*, the cellar and its furniture, are too well known to be here insisted upon. *Addison on Italy.*

SPICK and *SPAN*. [This word I should not have expected to have found authorized by a polite writer. *Span*-new is used by *Chaucer*, and is supposed to come from *spannan*, to stretch, Sax. *spanner*, Lat. whence *span*. *Span*-new is therefore originally used of cloth new extended or dressed at the clothiers, and *spick* and *span* is newly extended on the *spikes* or tenters: it is however a low word.] Quite new; now first used.

While the honour, thou hast got,
Is *spick* and *span* new, piping hot,
Strike her up bravely. *Butler.*

They would have these reduced to nothing, and then others created *spick* and *span* new out of nothing. *Burnet.*

I keep no antiquated stuff;
But *spick* and *span* I have enough. *Swift.*

SPICKNEL. *n. f.* The herb maldmony or bearwort. *Diét.*

SPICY. *adj.* [*from spice*.]

1. Producing spice; abounding with aromatics.

For them the Idumean balm did sweat,
And in hot Ceilon *spicy* forests grew. *Dryden.*

2. Aromatick; having the qualities of *spice*.

Off at sea north-east winds blow
Sabrean odour, from the *spicy* shore
Of Araby the blest, with such delay
Well pleas'd they slack their course, and many a league,
Chear'd with the grateful smell, old ocean smiles. *Milton.*

The regimen in this disease ought to be of *spicy* and cephalick vegetables, to dispel the viscolity. *Arbutnot on Diét.*

Under southern skies exalt their sails,
Led by new stars, and borne by *spicy* gales! *Pope.*

SPICULITY. *n. f.* [*spica*, Latin.] The quality of being spiked like ears of corn; fulness of ears.

SPIDER. *n. f.* [*Shimmer* thinks this word softened from *spinder*, or *spinner*, from *spin*: *Junius*, with his usual felicity, dreams that it comes from *σπίδω*, to extend; for the spider extends his web. Perhaps it comes from *spieden*, Dutch; *speyden*, Danish, to spy, to lye upon the catch. *Dop*, bona, saxon, is a beetle, or properly an humble bee, or *stingless* bee. May not *spider* be *spy dor*, the insect that watches the *dar*?] The animal that spins a web for flies.

More direful hap betide that hated wretch,
Than I can wish to adders, *spiders*, toads. *Shakespeare.*

The *spider's* web to watch we'll stand,
And when it takes the bee,
We'll help out of the tyrant's hand *Drayton.*

The innocent to free.
Insidious, restless, watchful *spider*,
Fear no officious damsel's broom;
Extend thy artful fabrick wider,
And spread thy banners round my room:
While I thy curious fabrick stare at,
And think on hapless poet's fate,
Like thee confin'd to noisome garret,
And rudely banish'd rooms of state. *Dr. Littleton.*

The *spider's* touch how exquisitely fine!
Feels at each thread, and lives along the line. *Pope.*

SPI'DERWORT. *n. f.* [*spalangium*, Latin.] A plant with a lily-flower, composed of six petals. *Miller.*

SPI'GUEL. *n. f.* [*meum*, Latin.] A plant.

The characters are: it is an umbelliferous plant, with very narrow leaves: the seeds are large, oblong, and striated. To which may be added, it hath a perennial root. It is medicinal. *Miller.*

SPI'GOT. *n. f.* [*spijker*, Dutch.] A pin or peg put into the faucet to keep in the liquor.

Bafe Hungarian wight, wilt thou the *spigot* wield. *Shakespeare.*

Take out the *spigot*, and clap the point in your mouth. *Sw.*

SPIKE. *n. f.* [*spica*, Latin.]

1. An ear of corn.

Drawn up in ranks and files, the bearded *spikes*
Guard it from birds as with a stand of pikes. *Denham.*

Suffering not the yellow beards to rear,
He tramples down the *spikes*, and intercepts the year. *Dryden.*

The gleaners,
Spike after *spike*, their sparing harvest pick. *Thomson.*

2. A long nail of iron or wood; a long rod of iron sharpened: so called from its similitude to an ear.

For the body of the ships, no nation equals England for the oaken timber; and we need not borrow of any other iron for *spikes*, or nails to fasten them. *Bacon.*

The head of your medal would be seen to more advantage, if it were placed on a *spike* of the tower. *Dryden.*

He wears on his head the *corona radiata*, another type of his divinity: the *spikes* that shoot out represent the rays of the sun. *Addison.*

SPIKE. *n. f.* The name of a plant. This is a smaller species of lavender.

The oil of *spike* is much used by our artificers in their varnishes; but it is generally adulterated. *Hill's Mat. Med.*

To *SPIKE*. *v. a.* [*from the noun*.]

1. To fasten with long nails.

Lay long planks upon them, pinned or *spiked* down to the pieces of oak on which they lie. *Maxon's Mech. Exer.*

Lay long planks upon them, *spiking* or pinning them down fast. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*